

CAPTAIN OF THE PORT, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC ADVISORY 05-95

Subj: **ENFORCEMENT OF NAVIGATION RULES IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY**

**PURPOSE:** This advisory provides a listing of the major deep draft channels in San Francisco Bay and adjacent waters which the Captain of the Port considers to be "narrow channels or fairways" within the meaning of the International and Inland Rules of the Road.

**CANCELLATION:** COTP Public Notice 5-93 is cancelled.

**DISCUSSION:** Rule 9, in both the International and Inland Rules of the Road, provides requirements for vessels navigating in the vicinity of narrow channels or fairways. Vessels and powerboats less than 20 meters (approximately 65 feet), all sailboats and vessels engaged in fishing **shall not** impede the passage of a vessel **that can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway**. Additionally, a vessel **shall not** cross a narrow channel or fairway if such crossing impedes the passage of a vessel which **can safely navigate only within that channel or fairway**. The term "shall not impede" means a small craft must keep well clear and not hinder or interfere with the transit of larger vessels. Small craft and fishing vessels shall not anchor or fish in narrow channels if large vessels or barges being towed are transiting.

Coast Guard enforcement efforts, combined with a public education and information program, are further intended to draw public attention to the serious hazards created when large vessels are impeded by smaller vessels. This effort should result in an improved level of navigational safety and reduce the risk of collisions, groundings and their potential consequences.

Captain of the Port considers the following areas to be "narrow channels or fairways" for the purpose of enforcing the International and Inland Rules of the Road. This list is not all-inclusive, but identifies areas where deep draft commercial and public vessels routinely operate. Included in this list and marked by an asterisk (\*) are the Regulated Navigation Areas (RNAs) in San Francisco Bay which were recently designated in amendments to 33 CFR

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- a. **All traffic** lanes and precautionary areas in the San Francisco Bay eastward of the San Francisco Approach Lighted Horn Buoy SF (LLNR 360) to the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to include:
  - \*1. **Golden Gate Traffic Lanes** which include the **Westbound and Eastbound Lanes** west of the Golden Gate Precautionary Area.
  - \*2. **Golden Gate Precautionary Area.**
  - \*3. **Central Bay Traffic Lanes** which include the Deep Water Traffic Lane, the Eastbound Lane (south of Alcatraz), and the Westbound Lane (south of Harding Rock).
  - \*4. Central Bay Precautionary Area.
  - \*5. North Ship Channel between North Channel Lighted Buoy "A" and the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.
  - \*6. Southampton Shoal Channel including the Richmond Long Wharf maneuvering area.
  - \*7. **Richmond** Harbor Entrance Channel and the Point Potrero Reach ending at Point Potrero Turn and including the Turn Basin at Point Richmond.
  - 8. Point Potrero Turn
  - 9. Richmond Harbor Channel in its entirety.
  - 10. Santa Fe Channel in its entirety.
- \*b. Oakland Harbor Bar Channel including the Outer Harbor Entrance Channel and the Inner Harbor Entrance Channel.
- c. Oakland Outer Harbor.
- d. Oakland Inner Harbor from Inner Harbor Channel Light "5" (LLNR 4670) to, and including, the Brooklyn Basin South Channel.
- e. Alameda Naval Air Station Channel in its entirety.

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f. South San Francisco Bay Channels between the central Bay Precautionary Area and Redwood Creek Entrance Light "2" (LLNR 5180).

g. Redwood Creek between Redwood Creek Entrance Light "2" (LLNR 5180) and Redwood Creek Daybeacon "21" (LLNR 5265).

\*h. San Pablo Straight Channel from the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to San Pablo Bay Channel Light "7" (LLNR 5900).

\*i. **Pinole Shoal Channel** in San Pablo Bay between San Pablo Bay Channel Light "7" (LLNR 5900) and San Pablo Bay Channel Light "14" (LLNR 5935).

j. **Carquinez Strait** between San Pablo Bay Channel Light "14" (LLNR 5935) and the Benicia-Martinez Highway Bridge.

k. **Mare Island Strait** between Mare Island Strait Light "2" (LLNR 6095) and Mare Island Causeway Bridge.

l. **Suisun Bay Channels** between the Benicia-Martinez Highway Bridge and Suisun Bay Light "34" (LLNR 6655).

m. **New York Slough** between Suisun Bay Light 1-30" (LLNR 6585) and San Joaquin River Light n 2" (LLNR 6670).

n. **Sacramento River** Deep Water Ship Channel from Suisun Bay Light "34" (LLNR 6655) to the Port of Sacramento.

o. **San Joaquin River** from San Joaquin River Light "2" (LLNR 6670) to the Port of Stockton.

**Rules of the Road Enforcement:** Timely reporting and enforcement of Rules of the Road infractions promotes safer navigation. Vessel masters, pilots and operators are encouraged to report incidents which merit investigation. Reports will be fully investigated and may result in license suspension or revocation proceedings or the assessment of civil penalties.